

REMARKS

Claim 9 is pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 5-7 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claim 9. The rejected claims are canceled.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance by canceling rejected claims. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,114,772 to Araki et al. (hereinafter "Araki"); and rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Araki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,142,028 Soh. The cancellation of claims 1 and 5-7 renders these rejections moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

James E. Golladay, II
Registration No. 58,182

JAO:JEG/clf

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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